

Kentucky is served by one of the most extensive telecommunications networks in the country, providing an important link to businesses around the world. Fiber optic, wireless, digital microwave and satellite technologies are integrated into a sophisticated infrastructure capable of handling the most demanding needs. Kentucky's cutting edge technology opens a world of opportunities for any business with telecommunications needs.

- The companies serving the Commonwealth are members of the Kentucky Telephone Association and can be found at the following addresses: <http://www.ktaoffice.org/> and <http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/images/lecbycounty.pdf>
- There are a number of Kentucky municipal networks offering fiber rings and broadband access to the internet: <http://www.mepak.org/>

An aggregated map of broadband coverage by telephone companies, cable companies, municipals, and wireless internet service providers can be viewed at the following address:

<http://www.connectkentucky.com/pdf/BBStateMapPhase1.pdf>

Kentucky is Leading Nation in Broadband Growth

The FCC reports that in the previous two years, Kentucky's growth rate of broadband subscribers leads the nation. When the state's ConnectKentucky's efforts began, sixty percent (60%) of Kentucky households had the ability to subscribe to broadband. Today, it is estimated that seventy-five percent (75%) of households are able to subscribe to broadband, an addition of 240,000 households in the last two years. Additionally, many providers are reporting increase in adoption, or take-rates, that are the highest increases ever seen.

In Kentucky, all major interstate carriers have network infrastructure traversing the Commonwealth providing access to national and international networks. Kentucky has moved ahead of most states in developing its telecommunications vision, as it continues to focus its efforts to compete in the New Economy. According to the 2002 Progressive Policy Institute's State New Economy Index:

- Kentucky's Education Level of the Manufacturing Workforce is ranked 10th nationally.
- The percentage of Kentucky manufacturing establishments with Internet accesses ranked 12th nationally.
- Kentucky ranked 18th nationally to the extent to which its manufacturing workforce is employed producing goods for export.
- Kentucky is ranked 18th nationally in utilizing technology in schools.

Examples of Kentucky's Focus on Telecommunications Infrastructure

- Governor Fletcher's Prescription for Innovation is a comprehensive broadband deployment and adoption plan that will leverage state, federal and private investment to blanket Kentucky with high-speed Internet access. The initiative will encourage citizen use of computers and the Internet, and provide every Kentucky community with an online presence for improving citizen services and promoting economic development. By the end of 2007, all Kentucky citizens will have access to broadband. Access and use of broadband applications will provide businesses with a technology

skilled workforce residing in communities with a superior quality of life. For more information visit:
<http://www.connectky.org/>

- The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Network (KPEN) is the next-generation; statewide network based on high-speed Ethernet connections using internet protocols (IP). KPEN has established as a publicly available, state-of-the-art communications backbone that is interconnecting educational institutions, and quasi-government institutions such as not-for-profit health care throughout the state. Additionally, the private business community is now able to take advantage of the services offered through the creation of this network with an attractive rate structure. Postsecondary education is enhancing its current and future telecommunications infrastructure solutions by exploring business alliances, partnerships or joint ventures with telecommunications service providers, utilities and other similar network infrastructure builders, providers and users. This provides all participants with better network capabilities, long-term cost savings and revenue-enhancing opportunities.
- The Commonwealth of Kentucky State Government Network (KIH-2) will enable our distributed wide area network to take advantage of leading edge technologies. These technologies will be available at a competitive price point throughout the state. The adoption of this contract will allow rural locations throughout the state to adopt technologies that would not otherwise be built out by the telecommunications provider. Key enablers available to the Commonwealth will be inherent redundancy past the last mile as well as the ability to provision quality of service (QOS) through both Commonwealth Office of Technology's infrastructure as well as the telecommunication provider's equipment to the end node. This will enable the adoption of more feature rich applications such as voice over IP and other real time collaboration. <http://got.ky.gov/>
- The Center for Rural Development in Somerset was developed as a national model for economic development and related purposes such as telecommunications in rural areas. The Center offers information technology based services and houses a distance-learning classroom and production studio. Satellite hookups are available for job training programs, teleconferencing, and other activities requiring sophisticated telecommunications equipment. CenterNet, an interactive video and computer network managed by the center, links 40 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky with videoconferencing, distance learning, information resources and Internet services. <http://www.centertech.com/>

For more information about Kentucky's telecommunications resources contact the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, General Research Branch, 502.564.4886, or visit the Cabinet's World Wide Web page: <http://thinkkentucky.com>

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